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I. INTRODUCTION

Law enforcement officers dealing with minors and alcohol face several problems. The laws that apply to underage drinking change frequently, requiring law enforcement professionals to adjust their techniques in dealing with violations.

This guide is a compilation of various laws related to the consumption of alcohol. It also suggests different procedures for law enforcement officers to use during an investigation into underage drinking and when filing charges and presenting cases in Probate, District, and Circuit Court. As always, you should refer to your departmental orders for specific alcohol-related enforcement procedures.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Intro	oductioni
II.	Law	s Applicable to Minors1
	A.	Minor in Possession
	B.	Possessing or Transporting Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle
		by a Minor2
	C.	False ID to Purchase Alcohol2
	D.	Consuming Alcohol on a Highway3
	E.	Operating a Motor Vehicle – Minor with any BAC3
	F.	Operating a Motor Vehicle – Minor with any BAC,
		Occupant Less Than 164
III.		s Applicable to All
	A.	Furnishing to Minors
	B. C.	Furnishing to Minors Causing Death
	D.	Consumption of Alcohol on Unlicensed Premises6 Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor at a Social Gathering6
	D. E.	Furnishing False ID to Another to Purchase Alcohol
	F.	Open Alcohol Container in a Motor Vehicle
	G.	Operating a Motor Vehicle While Visibly Impaired (OWVI)8
	Н.	Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated (OWI)8
	l.	Operating a Motor Vehicle with Schedule 1 Controlled
		Substances9
	J.	OWI/OWVI/OUID - Causing Death 10
	K.	OWI/OWVI/OUID - Causing Serious Impairment11
	L.	OWI/OWVI/OUID - Occupant Less Than 1611
IV.	Cus	todial Arrests and Bond12
V.	Curf	few Violations12
VI.	Sea	rch Warrants13
VII.	Sea	rch Warrant Model13
Mich	nigan'	's Graduated Licensing System Chart16

UNDERAGE ALCOHOL INVESTIGATIONS A Law Enforcement Officer's Guide

II. LAWS APPLICABLE TO MINORS

A. MINOR IN POSSESSION

Description of Offense: Person under 21 years of age shall not purchase, consume, or possess alcohol, or have any bodily alcohol content. MCL 436.1703.

Penalty

First Offense: Misdemeanor \$100; Community service

and/or rehabilitative

programs; deferral possible

Second Offense: Misdemeanor 30 days in jail and/or \$200;

community service and/or rehabilitative programs

Third Offense: Misdemeanor 60 days in jail and/or \$500;

community service and/or rehabilitative programs

Enforcement Options

■ Ticket the 17, 18, 19 and 20 year olds – District Court

- Under age 17 Petition required for Probate Court
- Confiscate or destroy alcohol

- (1) An officer who witnesses this violation may stop and detain a person and obtain satisfactory identification;
- (2) "any bodily alcohol content" is defined as .02 BAC or higher;
- (3) MCL 436.1703(6) states an officer may require a minor to submit to a PBT if there is reasonable cause to believe the minor has consumed alcohol. <u>However</u>, in *Platte v. Thomas Township, et. al.* (released 9/27/07) the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, ruled that section to be unconstitutional because it violated the 4th amendment of an unreasonable search. **Officers should no longer use it to compel a PBT.**
- (4) A 19 or 20 year old person who lawfully consumes alcohol in Canada cannot be convicted with the unlawful consumption of alcohol;
- (5) An officer who determines that a person less than 18 years of age has violated this statute is required to notify the person's parents (if the parent's or guardian's names are reasonably ascertainable) of

the nature of the violation within 48 hours of violation in person, by telephone, or by first class mail. If a person less than 17 years of age is incarcerated for violating this statute, the officer is required to notify the person's parents immediately;

(6) SOS to suspend license if second or third offense.

B. POSSESSING OR TRANSPORTING ALCOHOL IN A MOTOR VEHICLE BY A MINOR

Description of Offense: Person under 21 years of age who knowingly transports or possesses alcohol in a motor vehicle. It does not matter whether alcohol is open or capped. Charge applies equally to drivers and passengers. MCL 257.624b.

Penalty

90 days in jail and/or \$500 fine; community service; substance abuse assessment

Enforcement Options

- Appearance ticket or custodial arrest (if offense was committed within officer's presence) or release and seek warrant
- Confiscate or destroy alcohol
- Petition to impound vehicle after conviction
- Under age 17, file a petition in Probate Court

Important Notes

- (1) Within 30 days of conviction of the driver, officer may file a complaint with the court to impound the vehicle for up to 30 days;
- (2) If person who violates this statute is less than 18 years of age, officer must notify the parents of said minor within 48 hours of violation in person, by telephone, or by first class mail;
- (3) SOS to suspend license if one or more prior convictions for this offense.

C. FALSE ID TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL

Description of Offense: Using fraudulent identification to purchase alcohol by a person less than 21 years of age. MCL 436.1703(2).

Penalty

Misdemeanor

93 days in jail and/or \$100 fine

Enforcement Options

- Appearance ticket or custodial arrest or release and seek warrant
- Confiscate or destroy alcohol
- Confiscate the identification papers
- Under age 17, file a petition in Probate Court

Important Notes

- (1) SOS to suspend driver's license;
- (2) An officer who witnesses this violation may stop and detain a person and obtain satisfactory identification.

D. CONSUMING ALCOHOL ON A HIGHWAY

Description of Offense: Consuming alcoholic liquor on a public highway. MCL 436.1915.

Penalty

Misdemeanor 90 days in jail and/or \$500 fine

Enforcement Options

- Appearance ticket or custodial arrest (if offense was committed in officer's presence) or release and seek warrant
- Confiscate or destroy alcohol
- Under age 17, file a petition in Probate Court

Important Notes

An individual need not be in a vehicle to be charged with offense.

E. OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE – MINOR WITH ANY BAC [ZERO TOLERANCE]

Description of Offense: A person less than 21 years of age who operates a vehicle on a highway, place open to the general public, or parking lot while having a bodily alcohol content of .02% or more but less than .08% or having any presence of alcohol resulting from the consumption of alcoholic liquor. MCL 257.625(6).

Penalty

Misdemeanor 360 hours community service

and/or \$250 fine; rehabilitative programs

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

Important Notes

- (1) Check your departmental guidelines for policies regarding the release of intoxicated individuals placed under arrest. See also, Section IV, Custodial Arrests and Bond;
- (2) If person's bodily alcohol content is .08% or higher, pursue Operating While Intoxicated;
- (3) Punishment may be enhanced if subject has a prior alcohol-related driving offense; however, only one zero tolerance conviction may be used for a felony drunk driving enhancement;
- (4) SOS to suspend license;
- (5) Upon conviction, subject may be ordered to pay costs of prosecution and provide reimbursement for emergency response.

F. OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE – MINOR WITH ANY BAC – OCCUPANT LESS THAN 16 YEARS OF AGE

Description of Offense: A person less than 21 years of age who operates a vehicle on a highway, place open to the general public, or parking lot while having a bodily alcohol content of .02% or more but less than .08% while another person who is less than 16 years of age is occupying the vehicle. MCL 257.625(7)(b).

Penalty

Misdemeanor

93 days in jail and/or 60 days community service and/or \$500 fine

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

- (1) Check your departmental guidelines for policies regarding the release of intoxicated individuals placed under arrest. See also, Section IV, Custodial Arrests and Bond;
- (2) Vehicle immobilization or vehicle forfeiture may be ordered by the court;
- (3) Upon conviction, subject may be ordered to pay costs of prosecution and provide reimbursement for emergency response;
- (4) SOS to suspend license for 180 days. Subject may be eligible for a restricted driver's license after first 90 days.

III. LAWS APPLICABLE TO ALL

A. FURNISHING TO MINORS

Description of Offense: Knowingly sell or furnish alcohol to a person under the age of 21; failure to make diligent inquiry whether the person is less than 21 years of age. MCL 436.1701.

Penalty

First Offense: Misdemeanor 60 days in jail and/or

\$1,000 fine

Second Offense: Misdemeanor 90 days in fail and/or \$2,500

fine; community service

Enforcement Options

 Appearance ticket or custodial arrest (if offense was committed within officer's presence) or release and seek warrant

Confiscate or destroy alcohol

Important Notes

- The penalties assessed against retail establishments or clerks/agents employed by retail establishments are different from the penalties assessed against individuals;
- (2) This charge also applies to minors (i.e. persons under 21 years of age) who furnish alcohol to other minors;
- (3) If the minor receives alcohol from a retail establishment or a clerk/ agent employed by a retail establishment as a result of an undercover operation by the state police, the commission, or local law enforcement, the clerk, agent, or employee is responsible for a state civil infraction and civil fine of \$100.

B. FURNISHING TO MINORS – CAUSING DEATH

Description of Offense: Knowingly sell or furnish alcohol to a person under the age of 21; failure to make diligent inquiry whether the person is less than 21 years of age and the subsequent consumption of alcohol by minor is a direct and substantial cause of that person's death or an accidental injury that causes that person's death. MCL 436.1701(2).

Penalty

Felony Imprisonment – 10 years and/or

\$5,000 fine

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

C. CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL ON UNLICENSED PREMISES

Description of Offense: A person shall not maintain a premise, not licensed under the Liquor Control Act, and allow other persons to consume alcohol for consideration. MCL 436.1913.

Penalty

Felony

1 year in jail and/or \$1,000 fine

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant; confiscate alcohol.

Important Note

"Consideration" means any fee, cover charge, sale of food, ice, mixers, glassware, or other containers, or even the storage of alcoholic liquor.

D. CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY A MINOR AT A SOCIAL GATHERING

Description of Offense: Knowingly allow a minor to consume or possess an alcoholic beverage at a social gathering on or within that premises, residence, or other real property. MCL 750.141a.

Penalty

Misdemeanor

30 days in jail and/or \$1,000 fine

Enforcement Options

Appearance ticket or custodial arrest (if offense was committed within officer's presence) or release and seek warrant.

- (1) "Social gathering" means an assembly of two or more individuals for any purpose;
- (2) "Allow" means to give oral or written permission for or approval of. It also includes failing to take corrective action that would cause a reasonable person to believe that permission or approval has been given;
- (3) This section also prohibits an individual from knowingly allowing any individual to consume or possess a controlled substance on or within a premises, residence, or other real property.

E. FURNISHING FALSE ID TO ANOTHER TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL

Description of Offense: Furnishing fraudulent identification to a person less than 21 years of age for the purpose of purchasing alcohol. MCL 436.1703(2).

Penalty

Misdemeanor 93 days in jail and/or \$100 fine; SOS shall suspend license

Enforcement Options

Appearance ticket or custodial arrest or release and seek warrant; confiscate false identification

Important Note

An officer who witnesses this violation may stop and detain a person and obtain satisfactory identification.

F. OPEN ALCOHOL CONTAINER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE

Description of Offense: Transport or possess an alcoholic liquor in a container that is open, uncapped, or with a seal broken inside the passenger compartment of a vehicle on a highway or place open to the general public or parking lot. MCL 257.624a.

Penalty

Misdemeanor 90 days in jail and/or \$500 fine;

substance abuse screening;

community service

Enforcement Options

Appearance ticket or custodial arrest (if offense was committed within officer's presence) or release and seek warrant; confiscate or destroy alcohol.

- (1) Applies regardless of age;
- (2) Charge applies to both drivers and passengers;
- (3) SOS to suspend license if one or more prior convictions for this offense:
- (4) When not on a highway, charge applies to moving vehicles only.

G. OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE VISIBLY IMPAIRED BY ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR OR A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (OWVI)

Description of Offense: Operating a motor vehicle upon a highway, place open to the general public, or parking lot while subject's ability to operate that vehicle was visibly impaired due to the consumption of alcoholic liquor and/or a controlled substance. MCL 257.625(3).

Penalty

First Offense: Misdemeanor 93 days in jail and/or \$300 fine;

360 hours community service;

rehabilitative programs

Second Offense: Misdemeanor 1 year in jail and/or up to \$1,000

fine; incarceration mandatory

Third Offense: Felony Imprisonment not less than 1

year or more than 5 years; and/or a fine of \$500-\$5,000

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

Important Notes

- (1) Check your departmental guidelines for policies regarding the release of intoxicated individuals placed under arrest. See also Section IV, Custodial Arrests and Bond;
- (2) Vehicle immobilization may be ordered by the court with a first offense. Vehicle immobilization is mandatory with a prior alcoholrelated driving conviction;
- (3) Upon conviction, subject may be ordered to pay costs of prosecution and provide reimbursement for emergency response;
- (4) SOS to suspend license. Subject may be eligible for a restricted driver's license;
- (5) Officer should check whether individual has prior alcohol-related driving convictions as penalties may be enhanced.

H. OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED – ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (OWI)

Description of Offense: Operating a motor vehicle upon a highway, place open to the general public, or parking lot while intoxicated. "Operating while intoxicated" means either (1) the person is under the influence of an alcoholic liquor and/or a controlled substance; or (2) the person has an alcohol content of .08% or more. MCL 257.625(1).

Penalty

First Offense: Misdemeanor 93 days in jail and/or \$100-\$500

fine; 360 hours community service; rehabilitative programs

Second Offense: Misdemeanor 1 year in jail and/or up to \$1,000

fine; incarceration mandatory

Third Offense: Felony Imprisonment not less than 1

year or more than 5 years; and

or a fine of \$500-\$5,000

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

Important Notes

- Check your departmental guidelines for policies regarding the release of intoxicated individuals placed under arrest. See also Section IV, Custodial Arrests and Bond;
- (2) Vehicle immobilization may be ordered by the court with a first offense. Vehicle immobilization is mandatory with a prior alcoholrelated driving conviction;
- (3) Upon conviction, subject may be ordered to pay costs of prosecution and provide reimbursement for emergency response;
- (4) SOS to suspend license, may be eligible for a restricted driver's license after first 30 days;
- (5) Officer should check whether individual has prior alcohol-related driving convictions as penalties may be enhanced.

I. OPERATING WITH SCHEDULE 1 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND COCAINE

Description of Offense: Operating a motor vehicle upon a highway, place open to the general public, or parking lot while having any amount of a Schedule 1 controlled substance or cocaine in his or her body. MCL 257.625(8).

Penalty

First Offense: Misdemeanor 93 days in jail and/or \$100-\$500

fine; 360 hours community service; rehabilitative programs

Second Offense: Misdemeanor 1 year in jail and/or up to \$1,000

fine; incarceration mandatory

Third Offense: Felony Imprisonment not less than 1 year or more than 5 years; and/

or a fine of \$500-\$5,000

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

Important Notes

- (1) Penalties in OUID case and OWI case are the same;
- (2) "Zero tolerance" to Schedule 1 drugs and cocaine. Only necessary that person was driving and drugs were in person's system;
- (3) For any other controlled substance, must prove that the person was under the influence or impaired.

J. OWI/OWVI/OUID - CAUSING DEATH

Description of Offense: Operating a motor vehicle upon a highway, place open to the general public, or parking lot while either (1) under the influence of an alcoholic liquor and/or a controlled substance; or (2) while having a bodily alcohol level of .08% or more; or (3) while the subject's ability to operate the vehicle was visibly impaired due to the consumption of intoxicating liquor and/or a controlled substance; or (4) while having any amount of a Schedule 1 drug or cocaine in their body and by the operation of that vehicle caused the death of another person. MCL 257.625(4).

Penalty

Felony

15 years and/or \$2,500-\$10,000 fine; rehabilitative programs

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

- Check your departmental guidelines for policies regarding the release of intoxicated individuals placed under arrest. See also Section IV, Custodial Arrests and Bond;
- (2) Forfeiture of the vehicle may be ordered by the court. If vehicle is not forfeited, vehicle immobilization is mandatory;
- (3) Upon conviction, subject may be ordered to pay costs of prosecution and provide reimbursement for emergency response;
- (4) SOS to revoke license.

K. OWI/OWVI/OUID - CAUSING SERIOUS IMPAIRMENT

Description of Offense: Operating a motor vehicle upon a highway, place open to the general public, or parking lot while either (1) under the influence of an alcoholic liquor and/or a controlled substance; or (2) while having a bodily alcohol level of .08% or more; or (3) while the subject's ability to operate the vehicle was visibly impaired due to the consumption of intoxicating liquor and/or a controlled substance; or (4) while having any amount of a Schedule 1 drug or cocaine in their body and by the operation of that vehicle caused a serious impairment of a body function to another person. MCL 257.625(5).

Penalty

Felony

5 years and/or \$1,000-\$5,000 fine; rehabilitative programs

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

Important Notes

- Check your departmental guidelines for policies regarding the release of intoxicated individuals placed under arrest. See also Section IV, Custodial Arrests and Bond;
- (2) Forfeiture of the vehicle may be ordered by the court. If vehicle is not forfeited, vehicle immobilization is mandatory;
- (3) Upon conviction, subject may be ordered to pay costs of prosecution and provide reimbursement for emergency response;
- (4) SOS to revoke license.

L. OWI/OWVI/OUID – OCCUPANT LESS THAN 16 [CHILD ENDANGERMENT]

Description of Offense: Operating a motor vehicle upon a highway, place open to the general public, or parking lot while being under the influence of an intoxicating liquor and/or a controlled substance or while having a bodily alcohol level of .08% or more or while the subject's ability to operate the vehicle was visibly impaired due to the consumption of intoxicating liquor and/or a controlled substance or while having any amount of a Schedule 1 controlled substance or cocaine in his or her body while a person less than 16 years of age was occupying the vehicle. MCL 257.625(7)(a)(l).

Penalty

Misdemeanor

\$200-\$1,000 fine and 5 days-1

year in jail; 360 hours community service; rehabilitative programs

Enforcement Options

Custodial arrest or release and seek warrant

Important Notes

- (1) Check your departmental guidelines for policies regarding the release of intoxicated individuals placed under arrest. See also Section IV, Custodial Arrests and Bond;
- (2) Vehicle immobilization or vehicle forfeiture may be ordered by the court with a first offense:
- (3) Upon conviction, subject may be ordered to pay costs of prosecution and provide reimbursement for emergency response;
- (4) SOS to suspend license for 180 days. Subject may be eligible for a restricted driver's license after first 90 days;
- (5) A subject with a prior alcohol-related offense committing this crime is subject to a felony charge.

IV. CUSTODIAL ARRESTS AND BOND

In the event an officer makes a custodial arrest, the non-intoxicated person is subject to the interim bond provisions provided by law. However, if the arresting officer is of the opinion that the arrested person is under the influence of liquor or a controlled substance, unable to establish or demonstrate his or her identity, or it is unsafe to release him or her, the arrested persons must be held until he or she is in a "proper condition to be released."

V. CURFEW VIOLATIONS

Michigan law establishes curfew:

For children under the age of 12 years: 10 p.m.

For children under the age of 16 years: 12 a.m.

Some cities may have stricter curfews.

There is no curfew for children of the full age of 17 and upwards, and there are exceptions for younger children accompanied by parents or parent-designated adults.

Coordination with Probate Court authorities should be made in the enforcement of the curfew law; see your department's special order on this topic. There are no criminal penalties, but the law does allow officers to pick up violators consistent with Probate Court procedures.

VI. SEARCH WARRANTS

A search warrant is generally not needed in "open" spaces such as open fields, even if fenced and posted against trespassing, or forests. If an officer is prevented from entering a building or residence to investigate a crime in progress, or if consent to enter the building or residence is not given, the officer should consider obtaining a search warrant based upon facts developed during the officer's investigation.

An exception to the search warrant requirement may exist, however, if exigent circumstances justify a warrantless search and seizure is necessary in order to avoid the threat of destruction or removal of evidence. This exception requires an actual emergency and an articulation by the officer of specific and objective facts revealing the need for immediate action. Note that a mere possibility of a risk of immediate removal or destruction of evidence is not enough. The officer must have an objectively reasonable basis to believe that removal or destruction of evidence is imminent.

A model search warrant for underage parties follows. Most jurisdictions have an assistant prosecuting attorney on duty at all times to review an officer's preparation of such a search warrant.

VII. SEARCH WARRANT MODEL

See following pages.

State of Michigan District Court	SEARCH	CASE NO.
	WARRANT	
	(Under-Age Party)	Prepare original + three copies

l	(Under-Age Party)	Prepare original + three copies
TO THE SHERIFF OR ANY	PEACE OFFICER:	Page of
The affiant,, has	sworn to the attached affidavit re	garding the following:
1. The person, place or thing to	be searched is described as and	is located at:
ADDRESS: CROSS STREETS: DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING:		SIDE OF STREET: GARAGE TYPE:
The search is also to include any and all out warrant.	buildings, garages and vehicles w	vithin the curtilage during the execution of this search
 □ All alcoholic beverages and containers. □ All suspected controlled substances. □ All records indicating the purchase/sale of 	nsumption, storage or concealments bstances.	olled substances. ent, manufacture or distribution, use or delivery of
Affiant is experienced/trained in detectin Affiant has received specialized training in Affiant has experience in investigating gal investigations has found it common for instances, people who host under-age garages as a place to store the alcoholic b Affiant has found that in many instances p	years with the Polic El Instructor, Officer, or other s who were under the influence of githe presence of such substances of detecting, controlling and disperherings that involved the under-at the possession/use of controlled parties and/or possess/use contribeverages and/or controlled substatersons conceal contraband in the ion from an area resident who repoverages at listed residence/propioners.	ce Department (Specify) of intoxicating liquor and/or controlled substance and s. sing under-age parties. ge consumption of alcohol, and in the course of these substances to occur. Affiant has found that in many olled substances frequently use outbuildings and/or ances. ir pockets or elsewhere on their person. ported school-aged children/persons under the age of
at listed residence/property. The Police Department has received comurinating in public near listed residence/p Affiant, or another police officer residence/property and observed the follow	nplaints of loud music, noise, here property. (Circle) , howing activities: activities: alcohol containts assion or under the influence of a averal school-aged children gather use to answer the door and/or ansi inguished the lights. de other attempts to conceal their	wer the telephone. (circle)

State of Michigan District Court	SEARCH	CASE NO.
District Court	WARRANT (Under-Age Party)	Prepare original + 3 copies
		Page of
Reviewed on	_ Affiant:	
By:Prosecuting Official	P	
cause exists and you are c copy of this warrant with a with the person from whom	PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MIC commanded to make the search and saffidavit attached and a tabulation (wrn the property was taken or at the prenant and tabulation to the court.	eize the described property. Leave a ritten inventory) of all property taken
ISSUED:		
Date	District	Judge/Magistrate Bar No.
	RETURN AND TABULA	TION
described property and left copy of the tabulation in th	that I have executed the search warrar ta copy of the affidavit and tabulation e premises.	
Please see attached list.		
	Police Officer:	
	Dated at:	am/pm

October 31, 2005

MICHIGAN'S GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM

DRIVER	LEVEL 1	PREPARATION	DRIVER	PREPARATION	ROAD	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
EDUCATION SEGMENT 1	LICENSE	FOR DRIVER EDUCATION SEGMENT 2	EDUCATION SEGMENT 2	FOR ROAD TEST	TEST	LICENSE	LICENSE
Minimum age	No \$ fee	Minimum of 30	6 hours of	Complete what	\$ Fee will	\$ Fee	No \$ fee
of 14 years		hours of behind	classroom	remains of the	vary		
and 8 months	14 years	the wheel on a		required 50 hours		16 years of	17 years of age
	and	level 1 license,	Possible	behind the wheel;	Minimum of	age	
Vision/health	9 months	including	written exam	including what	6 months at		Minimum of 6
screening prior		minimum of 2		remains of the 10	Level 1	90 days	months at Level
to behind the	Vision	hours of night		hours required		crash/violation	2
wheel	exam	driving		night driving	Vehicle	free prior to	
experience					inspection	application for	12 consecutive
	Health	Minimum of 3		Review study		Level 2 license	months of
24 hours of	standards	months between		guides	Off-roadway		violation/crash
classroom		completion of			test	May drive	free driving at
	Written	Segment 1 and				without	Level 1/Level 2
6 hours behind	approval	start of Segment 2			On-roadway	supervision	prior to
the wheel	of parents				test	except from	application for
						midnight to 5	Level 3 license
Written exam	May drive					a.m. Driving	
	only with a					is permitted	Full driving
	licensed					from midnight	privileges with
	parent or					to 5 a.m. only	no restrictions
	legal					if driving to or	
	guardian,					from	
	or ·					employment	
	designated					or with a	
	licensed					licensed parent	
	adult age					or designated	
	21 or older					licensed adult	
						age 21 or older	
Minimum 3		M	Minimum of 6 months	ths		Minimum of 6	
week class						months	

Notes

Notes

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